

I am Leah Basbanes, from Hardy St, and as the Chair of the Conservation Commission, I would like to thank everyone for coming tonight - your presence here speaks to the importance of the matter before us. This has been a long emotional journey for many people, and I hope it will come to a very positive end for the Town. This piece of land holds strong in the hearts of many, either as the historic Sarah Read Roby Homestead, or the Ferrari Christmas Tree farm- where many of us traveled every year to “cut your own”, or as in the opinion of the Conservation Commission, a key parcel that ties together several protected properties. The acquisition of large parcels of land, such as this, is one of the main objectives in the Town’s Open Space and Recreation plan. It has been of interest to many, well before the property came into the spotlight recently. Needless to say we feel very fortunate to have this opportunity now. Several events have occurred over the past 3 years or so, that have brought us to this point tonight:

1. the withdrawal of the 40B plan for this site.
2. the approval and Certification of the Town’s Affordable Housing Plan
3. the approval of our Open Space and Recreation Plan which allows us to apply for State Self-Help funding,
4. the passage of the Community Preservation Act,
5. the Dunstable Rural Land Trust inviting the Trust for Public Land to serve as a liaison between all parties.
6. AND the support and cooperation of the Ferrari family, to work with us all, for the benefit of the entire Town.

A lot of hard work has been done to accomplish these things, and because of that we are proud to support this purchase.

With that being said, I am pleased to introduce Chris Lapointe of the TPL to give a presentation on the Ferrari Farm.